assistance up to Rs. 35.00 lakh is provided to the Allopathic hospitals for setting up of such facilities.

(b) and (c) The post of Homoeopathic Pharmacist in the CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Shahadra, Delhi had fallen vacant due to the retirement of the incumbent on 31.8.2004. Orders have since been issued for posting of a Homoeopathic Pharmacist to the above Homoeopathic Unit.

Primary Health Centres in Assam

1702. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals formulated by Government to upgrade the existing Primary Health Centres in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Primary Health Centre-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds allotted for this purpose by Government during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Assam has a proposal to upgrade 146 Block Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide them with 24 hours delivery system and also to upgrade some of these PHCs into Community Health Centres (CHCs).

(d) The State Government is yet to submit a formal proposal in this regard;

Generic Drugs

1703. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines like generic drugs are running parallel in large numbers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Generic as well as Patent and Proprietary Drugs are allowed to be manufactured and marketed by the manufactures after obtaining the prescribed licences under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Drug Rules 1945 made there under.

There is no question of putting a check on manufacturing and sale of generic drugs in the country.

Psychiatric Patients

†1704. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of psychiatric patients is continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far, to bring down the number of psychiatric patients and by when the desired results would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of persons with mental disorders is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) The strategy of the Government is to diagnose mentally ill patients at the early stage and provide treatment through the general health care delivery system. In order to improve the mental health care delivery system, National Mental Health Programme is implemented during the Tenth Plan to expand District Mental Health Programme, upgrade mental hospitals and psychiatric units of medical colleges, intensify IEC activities and undertake research and training in the field of mental health.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.